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POL 14 VIETS

DECLASSIFIED XR LAB B-2 VIETS

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON

REF: SAIGON 84 (LIST 45)

1. THE VIETNAMESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR'S (CVT'S) NATIONAL COUNCIL, ABOUT 40 MEMBERS OF WHICH MET IN SAIGON ALL DAY JULY 10, GAVE ITS BLESSING TO THE CVT'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE RACE FOR THE SENATE. THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED A SENATE SLATE MADE UP OF 10 CANDIDATES FROM THE CVT. THIS LIST, WHOSE PAPERS WERE FORMALLY FILED IN LATE JUNE, IS HEADED BY CVT GENERAL SECRETARY TRAN NGUU QUYEN, AND INCLUDES THREE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CVT EXECUTIVE BOARD--VO VAN DAU, CVT FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT OF CVT COUNCIWLIN PHONG DINH; PHAM VAN HOC, PRESIDENT OF CVT COUNCIL IN DINH TUONG; AND TA NGOC TUONG, PRESIDENT OF CVT COUNCIL IN BINH DUONG.

2. ACCRODING TO CVT PRESIDENT NGUU, THIS MEANS THAT THE CVT THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIET-NAM WILL MOBILIZE ITS RESOURCES TO MAKE SURE THAT THE 60 NEW SENATORS WILL INCLUDE AT LEAST 10 CVT OFFICIALS.

3. ANOTHER CVT OFFICIAL, TRINH QUANG QUY, ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT NGUU, IS ON TRAM VAN DON'S "FARMER-WORKER-SOLDIER" SLATE, AND CLOSE FRIENDS OF THE CVT ARE ON OTHER LISTS, BUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL WITHELD ENDORSING ANY OF THESE OTHER LISTS, AND LEFT FURTHER ENDORSEMENT UP TO THE CVT'S SMALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

4. IN ADDITION, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL TOOK NO POSITION ON THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE, BUT LEFT THE MATTER OPEN, AGAIN FOR DECISION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. NGUU SAID IT WAS "TOO EARLY" TO MAKE A CHOICE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MP
REVIEWED BY Joan Iguban 008475 DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE 1967 JUL 11 AM 2
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA OTHER EXEMPTIONS

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LAST MINUTE SWITCH THAT TRANSFORMED PRIME MINISTER KY INTO A CANDIDATE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

5. COMMENT. CVT LEADERS HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. ONE FACTOR IN THEIR INDECISION IS A CERTAIN SYMPATHY FOR THE ABSENTEE CANDIDATE, GENERAL "BIG" MINH. BUU FEELS STRONGLY THAT IT IS A SERIOUS POLITICAL ERROR TO EXCLUDE MINH BY EDICT, SINCE, IN BUU'S JUDGMENT, THIS TENDS TO MAKE A MARTYR OUT OF A MAN WHO MOST LIKELY WOULD NOT WIN ANYWAY.

6. RESPONDING TO WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE OPINION OF THEIR CONSTITUENCY, SOME CVT OFFICIALS OBJECT TO THE THIEU-KY TICKET FOR BEING COMPLETELY MILITARY THOUGH THEY MAY LATER GET ON ANY BANDWAGON THAT DEVELOPS.

BUNKER

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